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SECURITY COUNCIL
Fiftieth year

Letter dated 15 March 1995 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 March 1995 addressed to you by H.E. Mr. Alecos Michaelides, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if this letter could be circulated as a document of the forty-ninth session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 51, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alecos SHAMBOS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 14 March 1995 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cyprus addressed to the Secretary-General

I am writing to express our deep concern over recent threats by Turkish government officials about the integration of the occupied part of Cyprus into Turkey and the permanent division of the island. Such statements have been made repeatedly by the Turkish Prime Minister herself and the Minister of Defence, who announced that the subject had been taken up by the National Security Council in Ankara. Similar statements are also made almost daily by Mr. Rauf Denktaş.

The culmination of these are the statements made by the Turkish Foreign Minister, Mr. Murat Karayalcin, in the European Union-Turkey Association Council, which adopted the customs union agreement with Turkey on 6 March 1995 in Brussels. Such threats directed against Cyprus in such a solemn moment constitute a most provocative attitude and a total disrespect of the rules and norms governing international relations.

Turkey, while capitalizing on the customs union, tries to destroy the part of the Council of the European Union decision relating to Cyprus, which provides for the commencement of negotiations for the accession of Cyprus to the Union six months after the end of the Intergovernmental Conference of 1996, through the use of arbitrary allegations. They are claiming that our accession to the European Union is contrary to the provisions of the treaties of 1960 establishing the Republic of Cyprus. Nothing in these treaties could be construed as prohibiting the accession of the Republic of Cyprus, a sovereign State member of the family of nations, to an organization like the European Union. In any case, Turkey, which has grossly violated these treaties and continues to do so, should be the last to invoke these treaties.

The most disturbing aspect of these threats, beyond demonstrating the lack of political will on the part of the Turkish side, is that they reveal the expansionist designs of Turkey. Instead of seeing the opportunities arising out of Cyprus' accession and the catalyst role that the setting of a timetable for negotiations could play for the solution of the Cyprus problem, the Turkish side now threatens a new fait accompli.

The Security Council, in a number of resolutions on Cyprus, has declared the maintenance of the status quo unacceptable. What is expected of Turkey is to work towards achieving a negotiated settlement that would bring an end to the illegal division of Cyprus. Instead Turkey resorts to threats and blackmail.

The Government of Cyprus denounces most emphatically these threats directed against an independent and sovereign State Member of the United Nations. Such acts are contrary to international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant United Nations resolutions on Cyprus. They also further undermine the basis on which the solution of the Cyprus problem should be founded, as set out in paragraph 2 of resolution 939 (1994) and constitute an affront to your own efforts within your good offices mandate.

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I would like to assure you, once again, that the Government of the Republic of Cyprus remains committed to a just and lasting solution of the Cyprus problem on the basis of the relevant United Nations resolutions and of the high-level agreements. Furthermore, it believes that Cyprus' accession to the European Union offers unprecedented opportunities for the benefit of the whole population of Cyprus and for a secure, prosperous and peaceful future, provided the Turkish side cooperates for a solution of the problem.

(Signed) Alecos P. MICHAELIDES